

# FOOD & WINE

## How to Find Terroir-Driven Wines

Next time you come across a single-vineyard wine, here's what you need to know.

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Earlier this year, Champagne Telmont released a wine with GPS coordinates on the label. Its full name is Lieux-Dits Damery Parcelle Sous Adrien 2012 Extra Brut, and that language conveys a highly specific sense of place regarding where the Pinot Meunier grapes for this fascinating, delicious [Champagne](#) were grown.

On the other end of the labeling spectrum, I recently tasted two terrific vintages of Leviathan, a well-respected red blend by renowned winemaker Andy Erickson labeled, simply, as coming from California. Both the 2021 and 2014 vintages were excellent, the former full of bright fruit and aging potential, the latter mature, velvety, and still with plenty of energy in reserve...something that, in many ways, runs counter to wisdom about what to expect of wines with large geographical areas noted on the label.

Even within single vineyards, winemakers have options for blending, and the process is often an important part of single vineyard wines. “When blending, we as winemakers have options to play with, even within, a single vineyard,” says Sam Kaplan, winemaker for Arkenstone, Memento Mori, Vida Valiente, and MAXEM. “Whether I’m focusing on different plots within that site, or (as is the case at Arkenstone Estate), working with different varieties in the same vineyard, [blending] gives me the ability to highlight the site and vintage with the different tools of blending

components within the same site. Kaplan adds that great sites have shown themselves to be great over time, whether it be through a highly unique character, consistent wine quality, or simply because quite often the best sites can shine in great or challenging vintages.